

## Consistent witness points others to God

My son is a student at Gardner-Webb University. He went there with the notion that he might study history, but lately we have begun to discover that he is feeling God calling him in some other direction. We haven't yet figured out what direction that may be, nor has he, but we are joining him in the labor of waiting to see what God intends.

Meanwhile, I find myself remembering those old pastors from my own past who cautioned me when I first began to feel God's call. "If there is anything else you can do and be

happy doing it, then go and do that instead of becoming a minister," one old saint once told me. I'm not sure everything that was in that minister's mind when he spoke those words, but I was a bit frightened by the implications of his remark. Nevertheless, I continued on my journey and became a pastor, and I have enjoyed being one.

Yet, as I think about young people considering ministry these days, I often wonder about what our expectations really are. Brett Younger, who is pastor of the Broadway Baptist Church in

Fort Worth, Texas, says something about our expectations with his own personal story of God's call in his life. He says that he made the decision to follow God into full-time ministry with fear and trembling, but he also had an interesting and humorous expectation for what his ministry might be like.

"I imagined I would end up as a missionary to an uncharted island in the Pacific," Younger



Jeff Hensley  
Meditation

says. "My assignment would be to take the gospel to a tribe of sun-worshipping cannibals. I would row ashore in my canoe, tell the native women to wear shirts, lead them down the 'Roman Road' and be taken to the chief. He would say, 'Missionary, if you renounce Jesus, then we will let you go home to your refrigerator, recliner, and televised sports, but if you insist on believing, then we will throw you into this huge kettle of boil-

ing water and have you for our main course.' The drums would then stop pounding and the natives would stop chanting. My heart would stop beating. The birds would stop singing and I, like Martin Luther, would defiantly exclaim, 'When I was in eighth grade I promised to die for what I believe. Throw another log on the fire.'"

Younger imagined that his martyrdom would be reported in Guideposts or Christianity Today, and it would be so dramatic a story that it would even get condensed in Readers Digest.

In his years of ministry, nothing that dramatic has happened, of course, but it's interesting that we sometimes have unrealistic expectations of what it means to serve God. The reality is that sincere ministry most often has very little to do with fame, fortune or getting in Readers Digest. Instead, it has everything to do with living a consistent daily witness that points others to the power and presence of God.

Jeff Hensley is pastor of Kings Mountain Baptist Church. His column runs weekly in The Herald.

### CHURCH BRIEFS

## Day of Prayer services set

Two National Day of Prayer services will be held in Kings Mountain on Thursday, May 3.

Family Worship Center, 1818 Shelby Road, will host the fifth annual Kings Mountain Mayor's Prayer Breakfast Thursday, May 3 at 8 a.m. in the FWC Youth Center.

The annual event is sponsored by the Pastor's Prayer Circle.

Featured speaker will be Gary Newell, a political consultant from Westville, FL.

Musical guest is Danny Wolfe, master trumpeter.

For more information call 739-4520.

The annual community prayer service is scheduled for 12:15 p.m. at the water fountain outside of City Hall on East Gold Street.

Special prayer will be offered for the city, state, nation and world.

For more information call Rev. Eddie Gray at 739-4266.

New Beginnings Church of Jesus Christ, 541 Crocker Road, will host a benefit for cancer patient Belinda Bates April 28

beginning with a yard sale at 7 a.m. Hot dogs will be sold beginning at 10 a.m. A gospel singing featuring "Chosen to Serve" will begin at 6 p.m. To make donations or for more information call the church at 704-730-9507.

Janice Martin at 704-473-2160 or Pastor David Chapman at 704-418-1097.

Galilee United Methodist Church Women will hold a yard sale April 28 at 6 a.m. at Bridges Hardware in Kings Mountain.

Kings Mountain Baptist Church, corner of Mountain St. and Piedmont Ave., will host Four Anointed in concert Sunday, April 29 at 6 p.m. CDs will be available.

East Gold Street Wesleyan Church will sponsor a BBQ chicken plate benefit Saturday, April 28 from 12-6 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The price is \$6 per plate.

Sunrise Baptist Church, 208 Mail Road, Kings Mountain, will host the Blue Grass Gospel Tones in concert Saturday, April 28 at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the service.

Westover Baptist Church, 114

Westover Dr., Kings Mountain, will host Real Faith in concert at 6 p.m. April 29. A love offering will be accepted and there will be refreshments after the service. For more information call 704-739-2187.

Calvary Way Holiness Church will hold a gospel sing featuring the Calvary Way Singers Saturday at 7 p.m. An offering will be received for the building fund. The public is invited.

Refuge Ministries will hold a Fisher of Men Community Bible Study "The Heart" Thursday April 26 at 6:30 p.m. at Cleveland Memorial Library, Shelby. For more information call 704-236-2542.

Crossroads Rescue Mission will continue its sixth annual Jubilee Thursday and Friday at 7 p.m. at a tent in a field on Hwy. 18 about two miles north of the Hwy. 180 South and Hwy. 18 South intersection. Thursday's speakers are Pastors Greg Locke of Nashville, TN and Barry Philbeck of Love Valley Baptist Church, Kings Mountain. Friday's speakers are Pastors Locke and Wayne Ownby of

Sevierville, TN. The Love Valley Singers will sing at each service. A concession stand will be in operation from 5-6:30 p.m. Call 484-8770 for more information.

Family Worship Center, 1818 Shelby Road, will host master trumpeter Danny Wolfe in concert Wednesday, May 2 at 7 p.m. For more information call 739-7206.

Good Hope Presbyterian Church, 105 N. Cansler St., will have a fish fry Saturday, May 5 beginning at 11 a.m. Plates are \$6.50, sandwiches \$3.50 and tea 50 cents. Delivery is available by calling 739-1062.

Shiloh Presbyterian Church, 307 Cleveland Avenue, Grover, will have a yard sale, breakfast biscuits and homemade bake sale Saturday, May 5 from 6:30 a.m.-12 noon.

Miracle Tabernacle Ministries, 610 E. Gold St., will open its first free Dorcas Clothing and Elijah Food Pantry on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. To make an appointment call the church office at 739-9449.

## Greater Gaston Baptist Association sets annual meeting

The Greater Gaston Baptist Association will have its Annual Spring Meeting Monday, April 30 from 4-9 p.m. at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, 1282 Bradford Heights Road, Gastonia.

The GGBA consists of 136 churches in Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Mecklenburg and Iredell counties. Total membership in the churches is 56,000.

The theme of the meeting is "Celebrating Our Diversity." Presently, the association is made up of Hispanic, Anglo, African-American, Asian-Indian, Laotian, Vietnamese, Cambodian, and numerous multicultural churches.

The association continues to do missions and evangelism locally and globally. The Counseling Ministry and Sports Outreach Ministry also impact thousands. This year the association will send mission teams to the Gulf region, Mexico, Honduras, Oklahoma and England and will work with "World Changers" in Gastonia and Charlotte, working on over 60 projects to help needy families with housing and spiritual needs.

Summer camps and activities at the association's 114-acre Robert's Retreat Area, near

Crowders Mountain State Park, will be discussed.

Shalom Baptist Church of Lincolnton and Mt. Olive Baptist Church of Kings Mountain will be recommended for "watch-care" membership.

Eight breakout sessions will be offered. Topics are GGBA Sharing Ministries, GGBA Sports Outreach, Greater Gaston Christian Counseling Center, Re-Engineering Your Church, Discipleship Resources, GGBA Missions Partnerships Honduras/England, GGBA Missions Partnerships Mexican Border, and Christian Women's Job Corps.

Mark Gray, Church Planting Team Leader with the Baptist State Convention, will be the keynote speaker. Praise and worship will be led by "Unisong" of Unity Baptist Church, Gastonia, and the St. John's Missionary Baptist Church Praise Team.

A fellowship dinner will be provided by the St. John's Missionary Baptist Church.

For more information on the meeting, call 704-867-7257.

### COUNCIL

From 1A

Hutchins of Kings Mountain spoke in favor of a four year term, saying the change would be good for Kings Mountain.

The filing period for the November city election opens at noon on July 6 and closes at noon on July 20. All seven seats and the mayor's seat on council are up for grabs. State law requires that once an ordinance is adopted it must be effective 90 days before the next election and clearance

by the Justice Department must be accomplished by filing time. Corry has already forwarded to the Justice Department in Washington, DC the board's notice of intent to change the charter, which members passed recently by 6-1. At that meeting Corry said "This will be a quick process to complete but it can be done."

Last Thursday only eight people turned out for a public hearing on lengthening the terms of office of elected officials. Three people - former councilman Clavon Kelly, Bobby Maner and

Keith Ramey urged Council to let the people decide. "It ain't broke, don't fix it," said Kelly who asked Council not to deny the voters. Maner said the council's attempt to change the terms would appear as self-serving if they don't first gain approval of voters and both Maner and Kelly said that council should be held accountable more often than every four years. It's a matter of trust, plain and simple," said Maner. Ramey said that the decision should not be made by seven people. "I don't have a problem if you go to four year

terms but let the people decide," he said. Ric Francis spoke in favor of four year terms, saying it would better serve residents and the governing body.

Responding to a question, Corry said if the council were to vote to change the two year terms to four years and cleared by the Justice Department, it would be two years before the terms could be changed back following a petition from voters.

Mullinax, who voted against the charter amendment and staggered terms, said the decision should be up to the people.

Cleveland County HealthCare System  
invites you to celebrate the

## Spirit of Nursing

Tuesday, May 1 - 6 - 8 p.m.

Nurses show selfless devotion to their patients throughout the year, and today we celebrate those contributions. Join us as we honor the spirit of nursing.

All registered nurses, currently working, retired and nursing students graduating in May are invited to attend.

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Please RSVP by calling, 704-487-3846  
or e-mail crmcow@carolinahc.org

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